

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 2 Jan 68 2/1810Z	2. LOCATION Castle Rock, Colorado
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION HOT AIR BALLOON
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	COMMENTS: News accounts identified the object as a hot air balloon. Wind was from 180 deg. at 6 knots.
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION Eleven minutes	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS The observer sighted an object that was egg shaped, slightly creamish and transparent, and was estimated to have been 50 ft long, 20 ft wide, 20 ft high, and at about 50 to 75 ft altitude. The object traveled toward the north, rapidly gaining altitude and disappeared.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE N	
8. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	[REDACTED]

FORM
FTD SEP 63 0-329 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

9 MAY 1968

TDPT (UFO) Lt Col Quintanilla/70916/mhs/8 May 68

UFO Observation, 2 January 1968

Douglas County Sheriff
Castle Rock, Colorado 80104

1. The Aerial Phenomena Office is in receipt of an unidentified flying object (UFO) report from Castle Rock, Colorado which occurred on 2 January 1968 at approximately 6 pm.
2. A creamish transparent egg-shaped object was observed near the Rea Building. Lights came on suddenly and lit up the area according to the witness.
3. Did you receive any reports of unusual objects for this date? We would appreciate your comments as to a possible cause for this sighting.
4. Thank you for your assistance on this matter.


SECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr., Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Office
Aerospace Technologies Division
Production Directorate

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION (AFSC)
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE OHIO 45433



REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

TDPT (UFO)

S INV 103

SUBJECT: UFO Observation, 2 January 1968

OMM 103

TO: M [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Castle Rock, Colorado 80104

Reference your recent unidentified flying object sighting which you reported to the Air Force. The information which we have received is not sufficient for a scientific investigation. Request you complete the attached AF Form 117 and return it in the self-addressed envelope. Thank you for reporting your observation to the Air Force.

J
DIRECTOR QUINTANILLA, Jr, Lt Colonel, USAF
Chief, Aerial Phenomena Office
Aerospace Technologies Division
Production Directorate

1 Atch
AF Form 117 w/envelope

UFO Accompanied by Embarrassed Mother

July 20, 1960
Community news

By Tom Dietrich
of Castle Rock

came forth Thursday with an ex-
plan for an "unidentified flying ob-
ject" and reported by some 30

Tuesday night.

UFO, Mrs. Norbert Dietrich ex-
plained, was built by her two sons, Tom,
Jack, 16.

"I learned how to make the thing
ice class at school, and he was
us have to do it," she said.

"thing," according to Deputy Sheriff
S. Weimer, was described by "re-
sidents" as being a large, bubble-
object that appeared over the

community from 6:10 to 6:35 p.m. Tues-
day.

Persons reported lights shining on them
from the transparent object, which re-
portedly was anywhere from 30 to 50 feet

long.

The UFO actually was a clear plastic
dry cleaning bag, "a small one, the kind
that comes on a suit jacket," Mrs. Diet-
rich said.

Tom and his brother closed up the top
of the bag, braced the bottom opening
with a couple of balsa wood sticks, put an
aluminum cup in the center of the sticks
and set four birthday-cake candles in the
cup.

The principle of the experiment is sim-
ple. When the candles are lighted, hot air
fills the bag and lifts it into the air.

"We made the first one Christmas
Day," Mrs. Dietrich said. "The neighbors
watched, and we were getting a big kick
out of it."

The second attempt on Tuesday was
more successful than the first, she said.
It rose and stayed aloft for about 15
minutes.

"I didn't think anything about it. When
I heard about the excitement, I just about
died," she said.

The UFO had been described by resi-

dents as lighting up the sky, shooting out
balls of flame and having a dozen lights.

"Come on, now," Mrs. Dietrich said.
"There were only four little birthday
candles."

Tom Dietrich, a student at Maryknoll
Junior Seminary in St. Louis, Mo., flew
back to school early Wednesday morn-
ing and knew nothing of the excitement
his project had created. Jack is a student
at Douglas County High School.

Their mother, amused but a little con-
fused, emphasized that her family had no
intention of causing hysteria in the com-
munity.

4 Jn. Denver Post.

Denver Post 5 Jan

EDITORIAL PAGE: SO THE PEOPLE MAY KNOW

THE DENVER POSITION

Castle Rock 'UFO': How Eyes Can Lie

THE "unidentified flying object" sighted at Castle Rock this week was powered by only four tiny, birthday candles, but it may have cast a good deal of light on the whole UFO phenomenon in the United States.

What drifted across the Castle Rock sky Wednesday at dusktime was a transparent plastic bag just large enough to hold a suit jacket. The four candles in a cup on a bamboo frame heated the air in the bag and made the "UFO" take off.

About 20 witnesses, many of them "reliable," had a chance to watch the object for several minutes and contribute descriptions in the fastest of science. What most of them described bore very little resemblance to the dry cleaning bag they were looking at.

One man described the object as an egg-shaped balloon about 30 feet long, 20 feet wide, and 10 feet deep. Another said it a globe about 10 feet in diameter.

Others said it had a dozen lights, that it lit up the sky or that it shot out balls of flame. In the days had not been publicly identified Thursday by the people who sent it up, it is not unlikely that by this time some of the 20 men would have remembered little green men perched on theribbons.

People in Castle Rock are surely as capable of delusion as anyone and as good at distortion than any place anywhere else in the world. That they were wrong is not a reflection on them, but a commentary on the whole nature of human perception.

What happened in Castle Rock is another in the long series of reminders that the things people think they see in often quite different from the thing they actually do see.

It is a reminder that lights in the night sky lead themselves easily to misinterpretation and that excited spectators, with flying saucers or superterrestrial objects in mind, can reach some dramatic conclusions.

NONE of this proves, of course, that objects from other parts of the solar system or the cosmos have not been sighted from earth or that flying saucers have not landed.

But it does explain how observers could have been misled about the things they saw and how some of the most spectacular descriptions of UFO sightings could have been the result of faulty observation, imperfect memory or creative imagination.

We are convinced that most, if not all, of the people who have reported seeing UFOs actually saw something. But it seems likely to us that what they saw, in many cases, was not what they thought they saw. They could have been misled just like the people in Castle Rock.

We're not prepared to rule all sightings in out category. For the education of the others, we will have to wait until Dr. Edward U. Condon and his colleagues at the University of Colorado complete their study of the UFO problem. We really have to wait even longer.

PRIORITY

060

Olarito Ro

~~1/17/67 382~~

PT/UFO

WPB327

PTTUZYUW RUWTFNA6439 0037639-UUUU--RUEDFIF.

LAR CULUU

P R 030545Z JAN 63

F FLIGHT, 20EN LOWRY AFB COLO

TO RUWFIF/FTD USAF/TDETR/

RUEFHQA/USAFA/SAF-CIV/

RUEFHQA/CSAF/AFRDC/

RUWTFNA/ADC

ZEN/UNIV OF COLORADO BOULDER COLO

INFO RUWTFNA/ATC/ATO/CPO/

BT

UNCLAS XPCP

FOR DR CONDON, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO. SUBJ: UFO REPORT RECEIVED AT LOWRY AFB 2 JANUARY 1963. FOLLOWING FORMAT IS PRESCRIBED BY PARA 11, AFP 33-17:

A. DESCRIPTION:

(1) EGG SHAPED.

(2) 53 FEET LONG, 23 FEET TIP, 23 FEET HIGH AT ABOUT 50
TO 75 FEET ALTITUDE.

(3) SLIGHTLY OPAQUE, TRANSPARENT.

(4) ONE.

(5) NOT APPLICABLE

PAGE 2 RUEIFNA8439 UNCLAS

(6) ABOUT A DOZEN LIGHTS IN A CIRCLE UNDERNEATH. NOT LIKE GLARING FLOODLIGHTS BUT FAIRLY BRIGHT.

(7) NONE.

(8) NONE.

(9) COULD SEE THROUGH THIS PLASTIC BUBBLE-LIKE OBJECT AND IT APPEARED AS IF THERE WAS NOTHING INSIDE.

B. DESCRIPTION OF COURSE OF OBJECT:

(1) OBJECT HAD EVIDENTLY BEEN HOVERING ABOVE POWER LINES FROM REA BUILDING. LIGHTS CAME ON SUDDENLY AND LIT UP AREA. SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN FOCUSED DIRECTLY ON OBSERVER.

(2) 45 DEGREES.

(3) STRAIGHT AND HORIZONTAL.

(4) MOVED SLIGHTLY UPWARD TO NORTH, HOVERED, MOVED NORTH AGAIN, HOVERED AGAIN THEN ROSE SLOWLY AT FIRST THEN RAPIDLY DISAPPEARED STRAIGHT UP. (ONE OTHER OBSERVER CLAIMED IT DISCHARGED THREE BALLS OF FIRE BEFORE DISAPPEARING.)

(5) SLOWLY AT FIRST THEN RAPIDLY STRAIGHT UP.

(6) TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 11 MINUTES.

PAGE 3 RUEIFNA8439 UNCLAS

C. MANNER OF OBSERVATION:

(1) GROUND VISUAL.

(2) NONE. NAKED EYE ONLY.

(3) NOT APPLICABLE.

D. TIME AND DATE OF SIGHTING:

(1) 03/01/77 JANUARY 1988

(2) NIGHT.

E. LOCATION: BEHIND PEA BUILDING, WEST OF WILCOX ST, CASTLE ROCK, COLORADO.

F. INFORMATION ON OBSERVER:

(1) DR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED],

SELF-EMPLOYED, CONSIDERED RELIABLE. THERE WERE BETWEEN EIGHT AND FIFTEEN OTHER OBSERVERS. NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE AVAILABLE AT DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFF, CASTLE ROCK, COLORADO. 80104

(2) NOT APPLICABLE.

G. WEATHER AND WINDS:

(1) CLEAR.

(2) WIND 130 DEGREES AT 6 KNOTS.

(3) NONE.

PAGE 4 RWTNA0409 UNCLAS

(4) 25 MILES.

(5) NONE.

(6) NONE.

(7) MINUS 4 DEGREES.

H. NONE

I. NONE

J. NONE

K. RONALD L. PUOPP, 1ST LT, USAF, LOWRY AFB COLORADO /XPCP/, AREA CODE 303, OFFICE PHONE 394-3141, HOME PHONE 534-5536.

L. AIRCRAFT LOCAL FLYING AND WEATHER ACTIVITIES REPORT NO AIRCRAFT OR BALLOONS WERE IN THE AREA OF THE SIGHTING.